

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHELLE
MARTINEZ

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michelle Martinez, Detroit resident and environmental justice warrior from Michigan's 13th District Strong as she departs as executive director from the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition.

For many years, Michelle has been a pillar of our community, advocating for clean air and water, and fighting the environmental racism that hurts our neighbors' quality of life. Michelle has drawn inspiration to pursue this work from her travels, studies, and the community where she lives. She has worked tirelessly for various organizations over the past fifteen years and has never wavered in seeking justice for the people who live with the effects of pollution.

I worked closely with Michelle on a number of initiatives when I served in the Michigan State Legislature and have continued our relationship through my time in Congress, and it has been amazing to see her grow as an advocate and leader. Whether it's fighting to route truck traffic and diesel emissions away from residential neighborhoods or helping to bring national attention to adverse health effects in Michigan's most polluted neighborhood, Michelle has led the way in finding solutions. She always taken a bold approach to making transformative change for our communities and never shies away from a challenge. Michelle is a shining example of what it means to speak truth to power, and we are so fortunate to have her in our lives.

Please join me in recognizing Michelle Martinez's outstanding contributions to the communities of Michigan's 13th Congressional District as we wish her well on her next venture.

**HONORING CHAIRMAN HARVEY
GODWIN, JR. OF THE LUMBEE
TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR
HIS EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP
AND SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY**

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Harvey Godwin, Jr., for his exceptional leadership and service in his community and as Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Chairman Godwin went on to become the owner and CEO of both Two Hawk Employment Services, LLC and Two Hawk Workforce Services. He has also held many leadership positions on state and local boards and committees, including the positions of Chairman for the Robeson Community College Foundation Board of Directors

and Secretary of the North Carolina Workforce Development Board Association. Chairman Godwin's impressive background in management was a real asset during his tenure as Tribal Chairman.

Since the start of his tenure in 2016, Chairman Godwin's vision and leadership has served to strengthen, protect, and uplift the Lumbee Tribe. To further preserve Lumbee culture and history, he restored the Lumbee Tribe Cultural Center in a project that featured the construction of a new playground and community garden as well as renovations to the swimming pool and amphitheater. His leadership has also proved paramount for the physical and economic security of the tribe. Most notably, he administered essential hurricane relief efforts and secured over \$58 million in federal funding, including Title VI funding from U.S. Housing and Urban Development for the construction of many new homes across Lumbee territory. Furthermore, Chairman Godwin's consistent advocacy played a pivotal role in passage of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina Recognition Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. I was honored to play a small role. He has built and maintained bipartisan relationships in Washington that I believe will eventually result in the Lumbee Tribe finally being granted the federal recognition that is long overdue.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to Chairman Godwin for his committed and impactful leadership. I speak for our entire community in wishing him and his family continued success and happiness.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Harvey Godwin, Jr. for his six years of service as Lumbee Tribe Chairman and lifelong commitment to supporting his community.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE
ZEPPIERI**

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn and observe the passing of a passionate family man and faithful community servant, Dr. Joe Zeppieri of Groton, Connecticut. A dedicated member involved in local politics, Joe passed away on December 4, 2021 after 77 full and loving years. His loss is significant for the Town of Groton.

Born to Paul Zeppieri and Ella Buonanno Zeppieri in 1943, Joe was destined to live an accomplished life with a strong sense of duty. He was a lifelong learner who graduated from Groton's own Fitch High School and went on to attend several institutions of higher education including Providence College, Tufts University School of Medicine, and the University of Connecticut School of Medicine before immersing himself with a career in the medical field. Within those years of schooling, Joe was able to reconnect with his childhood sweetheart, Paula, who would shortly thereafter become Mrs. Zeppieri in 1967. Grounded by these roots, Joe went on to serve our country in the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander as both a doctor on the USS *John Marshall* and then chief medical officer on the USS *Fulton*.

Upon completing his stint in the Navy, Dr. Zeppieri settled back down in the Town of Groton. He used his penchant for knowledge to help other people with their own health and well-being, working in the field of orthopedic surgery all the way into the new millennium.

Of course, simply one field of expertise would never have been sufficient for someone such as Joe. Upon his retirement from the medical field, Dr. Zeppieri reinvigorated his passion for education. He completely shifted gears, working hard to obtain yet another degree from Western New England—this time, in the field of law. Paula and the family remained his rock during this period, and he was sure to gravitate back home every week while working to achieve his new merits. After obtaining a JD from Western New England, Joe worked at the local law firm of Stephen M. Reck and Scott D. Camassar before opening his own firm. He operated in the incredibly complicated field of medical malpractice, adding another notch to his belt of service by advocating on behalf of those who received improper healthcare in the courtroom. As a retired doctor himself, Zeppieri had a perspective that enabled him to become a natural success in this new line of work and hold his former industry to fair standards.

Outside of the courtroom, Joe Zeppieri's care for his fellow community members really began to shine through into his latest years. He always had his finger on the pulse of Groton, leading him to municipal service on the City of Groton's Board of Zoning Appeals. In 2017, he was elected town councilor—a form of service that he would keep up with until his final days. Fellow Groton residents and stakeholders that were lucky enough to have known or collaborated with Joe can attest to his loving character, his integrity, dependable expertise, fairness, and ability to keep the discussion level-headed. At the end of the day, Joe was someone who could be relied upon to advocate for and focus the discussion on the community services that held the greatest impact on the health and vibrance of the Groton community.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to know of constituents as dedicated as Dr. Joe Zeppieri. Joe's service to his community has taken several forms—whether it was through the Navy, medical field, courtroom, or municipal government. His greatest contributions, however, originated from his honed expertise, which enabled him to change the lives of countless individuals forever. Though we mourn the void left in his wake, we ought to remember Joe's lifelong contributions and the value he placed in the things that truly have an impact on people's lives for the better. In that sense, we should also find gratitude in the strength of Joe's family ties and trust that his surviving family—his wife Paula, children Christopher, Michael, and Laura and their respective partners, and nine grandchildren—and his fellow community members will reverberate the memory and legacy of Joseph Zeppieri for generations to come. To assist in this endeavor, I ask that my colleagues and the House join me in setting Joseph Zeppieri's memory further into stone, and thank him for his life full of love and service.